

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02144 250818Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /077 W

----- 059526

R 221500Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSULAT MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2144

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, GW, GE, AU

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND PRESS REACTION TO HELICOPTER
INCIDENT

REF: PRAGUE 2112; BONN 13604

1. RUDE PRAVO LED ALL CSSR MEDIA AUGUST 22 IN REPORTING
CSSR GOVERNMENT PROTEST TO FRG GOVERNMENT OVER HELICOPTER
INCIDENTS. PAPER NOTED GOC DELIVERED WRITTEN PROTEST
(DIPLOMATIC NOTE) TO FRG CHARGE ON AUGUST 21 AND PRINTED
FULL TEXT OF NOTE. ITSELF RATHER LONG, THE NOTE SUMMARIZED
DETAILS OF TWO INCURSIONS OF CSSR AIRSPACE ON AUGUST 15 AND 17,
NOTED DETERMINATIONS BY CSSR AUTHORITIES THAT FLIGHTS HAD ORIGINATED
AT MUNICH AIRPORT AND HAD CROSSED AUSTRIAN AIRSPACE ENTERING CSSR
FROM AUSTRIA, AND IDENTIFIED PERPETRATORS AS "FORMER AMERICAN
MILITARY PILOT" B. MEEKER AND D. KOBRZYNSKY, THE LATTER NOW UNDER
ARREST IN CSSR. NOTE CALLED UPON FRG TO PROSECUTE MEEKER AND
DESCRIBED WHOLE AFFAIR AS INCONSISTENT WITH CSCE FINAL ACT AND
EFFORTS SINCE 1973 TO IMPROVE CSSR-FRG RELATIONS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02144 250818Z

2. ARTICLE ACCOMPANYING PAGE ONE RP REPRINT OF NOTE SUMMARIZED "SPONTANEOUS" EXPRESSIONS OF ALARM BY REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED CZECHOSLOVAK AGENCIES OVER AIRSPACE INCURSIONS, ALLEGED THAT PILOT MEEKER WAS ARMED, AND STATED THAT AIRCRAFT ITSELF, IDENTIFIED IN NOT REP IN NOTE AS A UH-1-D OF US MANUFACTURE, CARRIED MOUNTED ARMAMENT. BUT RUDE PRAVO WAS AT ITS VITRIOLOC BEST ON PAGE TWO, ASSERTING IN THE CONTEXT OF A PARTICULARLY NASTY WRAPUP OF MEEKER'S BACKGROUND THAT THE PILOT HAD MADE GOOD USE OF HIS VIETNAM CAREER OF "MURDER" TO CARRY ON "HIS BLODDY SERVICES" TO EARN TEN THOUSAND DEUTSCHEMARKS. EMBASSY RAISED THIS PARTICULAR RP ARTICLE WITH NOVOTNY (ACTING HEAD 6TH DEPT MFA) AUGUST 22 AND ASSUMES FBIS WILL PROVIDE FULL TRANSLATION. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON TALK WITH NOVOTNY.)

3. WHILE TEXT OF NOTE DESCRIBED FLIGHTS ONLY AS "WELL PREPARED AND ORGANIZED," COMPANION ARTICLE STRESSED THESIS THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE MEEKER'S REPEATED FLIGHTS COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF COMPETANT AUTHORITIES, BOTH FRG AND AUSTRIAN. PAPER ASSERTED THAT, SINCE HELICOPTER WAS ARMED, ONLY CONCLUSION FOR CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE TO DRAW WAS THAT MEEKER'S ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE WITH PREPARATION AND SUPPORT OF WEST GERMAN MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES. AUSTRIA WAS NOT SPARED: DESPITE ITS PROFESSED NEUTRALITY, THE NEWSPAPER NOTED, AUSTRIA WAS SHHOWING A QUESTIONABLE ATTITUDE BY NOT RPT NOT PROTESTING VIOLATION OF ITS AIRSPACE BY MEEKER'S HELICOPTER.

4. DURING DISCUSSION REFERRED TO ABOVE WITH NOVOTNY, HE SAID THAT WHEN HELICOPTER INCIDENT ORIGINALLY CAME UP, HE ATTENDED FIRST MEETING AT MFA BECAUSE PRESS STATED PILOT WAS AMERICAN. NOVOTNY ADDED THAT SINCE IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS NO US INVOLVEMENT, HE WAS DROPPED FROM PARTICIPATION IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. PERRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES, GOVERNMENT REACTION, ALLEGATIONS, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE02144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0376
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750827/aaaaawyj.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRAGUE 2112, 75 BONN 13604
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND PRESS REACTION TO HELICOPTER INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, GE, GC, AU, (MEEKER, BARRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006